IV. The Dewan opened the Assembly with the following.—

ADDRESS.

"*Gentlemen,*

PRELIMINARY.

Under command of His Highness the Maha Raja, it is my pleasing duty to welcome you to the Fifteenth Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. Copies of the Administration Report for 1093 M. E. will, as usual, be placed in your hands, from which you will learn in detail how the administration of the State was conducted during the year.

2. Personnel.—Since the last Session of the Assembly, there have been some important changes in the higher ranks of the public service, and foremost among them, I should mention the retirement of Mr. A. H. Bastow, Chief Engineer and of Mr. A. J. Vieyra, Chief Secretary to Government. For the past few years, the health of Mr. Bastow was not of the best ; but undeterred by any considerations on that account, he stood at his post of duty and served the State as Chief Engineer for a period of thirteen years with an ability, integrity and devotion to duty, which always elicited the warm appreciation of Government. Mr. Vieyra retired after a long and meritorious service of more than 37 years. His vast experience, unswerving loyalty and facile penmanship were valuable assets, and the State has lost in him a ripe, ready and reliable officer. Mr. S. Ramaswami Sastri, District and Sessions Judge, has also retired after a long career of public usefulness. The death of Professor A. R. Rajaraja Varma in June last has cast a shadow over the service. The late professor was one of the most distinguished orientalists of modern times. His numerous works in Sanskrit and Malayalam bear the unmistakable stamp of genius, and his unexpected loss to the local Arts College, of which he was one of the most shining ornaments, is irreparable. Death has also snatched away from our midst Mr. K. Paramu Pillai, the popular Professor of English in the College.

3. The War.—The great war of liberation has been fought and won. The day-dream of the despot has been dispelled for ever, and Germany lies prostrate to-day at the feet of her victors, crushed with the weight of her own countless sins. The cause of justice, humanity and righteousness has completely triumphed and the world is once more free by the indisputable dominance of right over might. Great Britain, the stalwart champion of order and progress in every age, has emerged out of this struggle even a greater Britain than before and the event is full of moral lessons to the student of history.

4. War effort.—In regard to the contribution of men and money for the war, I may be permitted to say that Travancore has not failed to make its humble response to the call of duty. At the very commencement of the war, His Highness the Maha Raja placed all the resources of the State at the disposal of His Majesty the King-Emperor, and at a later stage when the tension of the conflict became severe, exhorted his subjects in a soul-stirring message to help the cause of the Empire to the utmost limit of their capacity. His Highness himself led the way by contributing liberally to the war loans and the war funds. His noble precepts and example naturally had their salutary effect and it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge that the people of Travancore have cheerfully come forward to bear their share of the burden. Their contributions for war purposes and investments in war bonds have not in any degree been disproportionate to their resources. In the matter of recruitment to the Indian Army, the results attained have been in every way satisfactory. Several concessions were granted to intending recruits, and during the eleven months from January to November 1918, when alone recruiting operations were carried on in the State through the Darbar's agency, a contribution of 1,596 combatant and 1,422 non-combatant recruits was made to His Majesty's Forces. The men of the Nayar Brigade who joined the 73rd Infantry, Trichinopoly, acquitted themselves honourably and the officer commanding the regiment has expressed himself highly satisfied with their work. Two of the Division Peishkars have been awarded certificates by His Excellency the Viceroy for meritorious work done in connection with the first war loan propaganda.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly